DOCUMENT RESUME

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ABSTRACT

This document presents an instrument to help families of special needs children to identify their resources and their concerns, for use in development of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The first part of the instrument includes a series of open-ended questions that provide families an opportunity to identify their concerns, in general terms, in relation to their children's development. Families may choose to share their responses to the questions with the rest of the IFSP planning team, may use them as a basis of discussion with their service coordinator, or may use the questions to help in planning but not share their responses with other team members. The second part of the instrument is a checklist that families can use to identify their priorities in specific areas. These areas include information, help with child care, medical and dental care, community services, talking about the child, and planning for future and transition needs. The first part of the instrument is generally made available to families as they begin planning for their children's assessments and the second part after eligibility for services has been determined. (JDD)

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ED 361 963

how can we help?

EC 302433

A Resource for Families

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING HOW CAN WE HELP?

How Can We Help? was developed by the staff and families of Child Development Resources (1988) for use in their Infant-Parent Program as well as in their training projects. It is one of a number of ways families may choose to share information with other members of the team. The instrument consists of two parts. The first part includes a series of open-ended questions that provide families an opportunity to identify their concerns, in general terms, in relation to their children's development. These questions are made available to families as they begin planning for their children's assessments. Some families may choose to answer these questions in writing and share their responses with the rest of the team during their IFSP planning meetings. Others may use them as a basis of discussion with their service coordinator and/or other members of the team. Some families may choose to use the questions to help them plan, but may not want to share their responses with other team members. Finally, some families may not choose to use this instrument in any form.

The second part is a checklist that families can use to identify their priorities in specific areas. These areas include information, help with child care, medical and dental care, community services, talking about their child, and help planning for future and transition needs. At the suggestion of families, each statement begins with the words *Our family would like...* and offers three categories for responding: We Have Enough, We Would Like More, and We Are Not Sure. This simple scale allows families several options for stating their concerns and priorities and is typically made available to families after eligibility for services has been determined. Again, families have the opportunity to use this part any way that meets their needs.

How Can We Help? was adapted from Project Dakota's Family Assessment Focus and A Survey of Family Needs, Eagen, MN.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Part I

Family Name: _____ Date: _____

Each family receiving early intervention services for their child has their own resources and concerns. Please use this form to help us know how we can be most useful to your family. We know that your concerns will change from time to time and that this will just be a beginning in helping us to plan together. Answer only those questions that you think will help is to know how we can be most helpful to you and your family:

What pleases you most about your child?

What worries you most about your child?

What kind of help or information about your child do you need?

In the next several months, I would like my child to be able to.....

Besides my family, other people I would like to include in the assessment and planning meeting for my child and family are.....

In the next several months, I would like my family to .....

How Can We Help?
Part II

Family Name: _____
Date: _____

Our family would like information about:	We Have Enough	We Would Like More	We Are Not Sure
child development	_____	_____	_____
child behavior	_____	_____	_____
nutrition/feeding	_____	_____	_____
our child's health problems	_____	_____	_____
our child's developmental problems	_____	_____	_____
toys or books for our child and how to get them	_____	_____	_____
other:			

Our family would like help with child care such as:			
finding daily child care	_____	_____	_____
finding baby-sitters/respite care	_____	_____	_____
finding a pre-school	_____	_____	_____
teaching the care provider how to take care of our child	_____	_____	_____
finding ways to pay for child care	_____	_____	_____
evaluating child care settings or determining appropriate child care settings	_____	_____	_____
other:			

Our family would like to know more about community services for our child & family like:			
GED and other adult education	_____	_____	_____
transportation to services	_____	_____	_____
public transportation	_____	_____	_____
who can help with transportation to doctor's appointments and other special services	_____	_____	_____
food, food stamps, WIC or other nutrition programs	_____	_____	_____
housing	_____	_____	_____
fuel	_____	_____	_____
clothing	_____	_____	_____
finding a job or job training	_____	_____	_____
financial assistance	_____	_____	_____
individual or family counseling	_____	_____	_____
other:			

How Can We Help?
Part II

Our family would like to know more about getting medical & dental care such as:	We Have Enough	We Would Like More	We Are Not Sure
finding a doctor or dentist	_____	_____	_____
getting/using special equipment and supplies for our child	_____	_____	_____
training in how to give first aid & CPR to my family/others	_____	_____	_____
family planning/birth control	_____	_____	_____
other:			

Our family would like help talking about our child:			
to our children & other children	_____	_____	_____
to friends & other relatives	_____	_____	_____
to doctors & nurses to get the information & help we want	_____	_____	_____
to early intervention providers to get the information & help we want	_____	_____	_____
to other professionals (social workers, teachers) about our child & ourselves to get the information & help we want	_____	_____	_____
to other people we meet	_____	_____	_____
other:			

Our family would like help planning for the future & transition needs such as:			
eligibility & the public school special education process	_____	_____	_____
eligibility, legal rights, parent's role	_____	_____	_____
visiting other service settings	_____	_____	_____
determining the best setting for our child	_____	_____	_____
other:			

Please tell us other ways we might be able to help (use back of this sheet if needed):

The early intervention program can provide many services to help you help your child grow and develop. Families often need many services we cannot provide. When that happens, your service coordinator will help you find out how to get other community services.